

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A video switching apparatus comprising:

video input selecting means for switching to select at least one of a plurality of video inputs signals;

output means for outputting the selected video input signal to a recording/reproducing apparatus;

recording/reproduction detecting means for analyzing a video signal received from said recording/reproducing apparatus and discriminating whether the recording/reproducing apparatus is in a recording mode or a reproduction mode; and

control means for switching ~~its own~~ an operation mode of the video switching apparatus to a recording mode or a reproducing mode on the basis of a result determined by said recording/reproduction detecting means.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means has discriminating means for comparing a signal set at random in said video switching apparatus with a signal multiplexed in a video output signal of said recording/reproducing apparatus and discriminating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in

the recording mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of a the comparison result.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes discriminating means for comparing, in phase, a sync signal of the video signal which is outputted to said recording/reproducing apparatus with a sync signal separated from the video signal outputted from said recording/reproducing apparatus and determining that said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode in the case where the comparison result indicates that phases of the compared sync signals are nearly equal to each other.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes discriminating means for comparing, in phase, a sync signal of the video signal which is outputted to said recording/reproducing apparatus with a sync signal separated from the video signal outputted from said recording/reproducing apparatus and determining that said recording apparatus is in the reproduction mode in the case where the comparison result indicates phases of the compared sync signals are not nearly equal to each other.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes:

discriminating means for comparing a horizontal sync signal of the video signal which is outputted to said recording/reproducing apparatus with a horizontal sync signal separated from the video signal outputted from said recording/reproducing apparatus and discriminating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproducing mode; and

the control means for switching an operating switches the operation mode of the video switching apparatus to the recording mode or the reproducing mode on the basis of a the discrimination result of said discriminating means.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording/reproduction detecting means includes discriminating means for determining that said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode when a video transmission cable from said recording/reproducing apparatus is not connected.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for displaying information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording

mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of ~~a discrimination~~
~~result of said discriminating means~~ the result determined by said
recording/ reproduction detecting means.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2,
further comprising means for displaying information indicating
whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording
mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of ~~a~~ the
discrimination result of said discriminating means.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 3,
further comprising means for displaying information indicating
whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording
mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of ~~a discrimination~~
the determination result of said discriminating means.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4,
further comprising means for displaying information indicating
whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording
mode or the reproduction mode on the basis of ~~a discrimination~~
the determination result of said discriminating means.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to ~~an~~ the outside on the basis of a ~~discrimination result of said discriminating mean~~ the result determined by said recording/reproduction detecting means.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to ~~an~~ the outside on the basis of ~~a~~ the discrimination result of said discriminating ~~mean~~ means.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproduction mode to ~~an~~ the outside on the basis of ~~a~~ discrimination the determination result of said discriminating ~~mean~~ means.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising means for outputting information indicating whether said recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording

mode or the reproduction mode to ~~an~~ the outside on the basis of a discrimination the determination result of said discriminating mean means.

15. (New) A video switching apparatus comprising:
video input selecting means for switching to select at least one of a plurality of input video signals;
output means for outputting the selected input video signal as an output video signal to a recording/reproducing apparatus;
recording/reproduction detecting means for comparing a video signal received from said recording/reproducing apparatus and the output video signal of said output means and discriminating whether the compared video signals are identical or not identical; and
control means for switching between a recording mode operation and a reproducing mode operation on the basis of the discrimination result of said recording/reproduction detecting means.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the recording/reproduction detecting means:

generates a random ID signal and multiplexes the random ID signal with the selected input video signal to produce the output signal to the recording/reproducing apparatus;

compares the generated ID signal with an ID signal multiplexed within the video signal received from said recording/reproducing apparatus; and

discriminates whether the compared ID signals are identical or not identical.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the recording/reproduction detecting means:

separates a sync signal from the video signal received from the recording/reproducing apparatus;

phase compares the separated sync signal with a sync signal contained within the output video signal provided to the recording/reproducing apparatus, so as to detect a phase difference therebetween; and

discriminates whether the detected phase difference is within a predetermined range, wherein

the control means switches to the recording mode operation when the detected phase difference is within the predetermined range.

18. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the recording/reproduction detecting means:

separates a sync signal from the video signal received from the recording/reproducing apparatus;

phase compares the separated sync signal with a sync signal contained within the output video signal provided to the recording/reproducing apparatus, so as to detect a phase difference therebetween; and

discriminates whether the detected phase difference is outside a predetermined range, wherein

the control means switches to the reproducing mode operation when the detected phase difference is outside the predetermined range.

19. (New) An apparatus according to claim 17 or 18, wherein the separated sync signal and the sync signal contained within the output video signal provided to the recording/reproducing apparatus are horizontal sync signals.

20. (New) The video switching apparatus of claim 1 or 15, wherein:

said recording/reproducing apparatus provides the selected video signal received from the output means to the recording/

reproduction detecting means when operating in the recording mode and provides a video signal different from the selected video signal when operating in the reproducing mode; and

said recording/reproduction detecting means has discrimination means for comparing: (1) a bit signal within, and identifying, the selected input video signal and (2) a bit signal within, and identifying, the video signal received from said recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein:

said discriminating means discriminates whether the recording/reproducing apparatus is in the recording mode or the reproducing mode based on the result of the bit signal comparison.